

# City of Socorro

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## See the Stars in Socorro This Month!

Party with the stars—or attend the star parties—or dance in the street under the stars! There is so much going on in Socorro in October, there's no reason to leave town or to be bored. Pick and choose, or do them all!

October 3 has an array of activities from **Blessing of the Animals** on the Historic Plaza to guided tours of the **Very Large Array** radio telescope west of Socorro to the semi-annual open house at **Trinity Site**. If you're fast, you can do them all: Trinity Site opens at 8:00 am, the animals will be blessed at 10:00 and tours of the VLA run from 11:00 to 4:00 pm. You could get up early both Saturday and Sunday and go to the **Chile Proppers Model Aircraft Fly**. You'll see model plane operators attempt to drop beans from their aircraft onto a ground target, and other feats of skill and daring. Later, you can celebrate the founding of the Hammel Brewery and Museum at **Oktoberfest** from 11:00 to 4:00, sponsored by the Socorro County Historical Society.

After you've had a week to rest up, get ready to dance in the street (under the stars!) at the best **Socorro Fest** yet! There will be 2 days, 4 stages, 22 performing groups, 2 contests, 1 harmonica workshop and plenty of micro-brew and New Mexico wine for the tasting. Music will range from local favorites to Gunzawless to the Albuquerque Blues Connection to one hot time with Darren Córdova and Grupo Calor, Mariachi Calor and Dynnette Córdova. The lineups are staggering: see them at [www.socorrofest.com](http://www.socorrofest.com) – the Plaza will be hoppin'!

And if you want something completely different, head west for dancing of another sort at **Alamo Indian Days** in, naturally, Alamo!

The next big bash starts on Wednesday, the 14<sup>th</sup>, with the **Enchanted Skies Star Party**. Special events include:

- ★ Wednesday night observing atop the Magdalenas near South Baldy Peak at 10,000 feet where the stars sparkle like diamonds. Astronomers will be on hand with telescopes to show you planets, globular clusters, other galaxies...
- ★ An insider's tour of the Very Large Array
- ★ A visit to the US Air Force GEODSS Deep Space Surveillance facility at White Sands Missile Range.
- ★ Astrophotography 101
- ★ Lectures on "Frontier Science" and an introduction to galaxies
- ★ A telescope engineering workshop
- ★ A Chuck Wagon Dinner and lecture at El Camino Real Heritage Center.

If you can't attend the whole party, consider attending Friday night's keynote address by Dr. John Grunsfeld, the NASA astronaut who most recently serviced the Hubble Space Telescope. The Etscorn Campus Observatory will roll out its telescopes for viewing after the lecture, or gaze at the stars from the amphitheater at the dark DARK sky star party at El Camino Real Heritage Center on Saturday night. For more information contact the Socorro Heritage and Visitors Center at 575-835-8927 or see [enchantedskies.org](http://enchantedskies.org).

Whew! There's more....

The next weekend, October 17 and 18, both of our national wildlife refuges have things to offer. On Saturday the **Bosque del Apache** will unveil this year's artwork and commemorative merchandise for the Festival of the Cranes with an artists' reception from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m..

**Sevilleta** hosts its annual open house with a theme of "Let's Go Outside" and plenty of activities to get us out there! You can bike and hike, learn about history and geology, check out wolves, waterfowl and creepy crawly critters, go on a research field trip. AND, if you've ever wanted to try your skill at hitting a target with a bow and arrows, Sevilleta is the place to be.

"We need kids," says Sevilleta Deputy Manager Dennis Prichard, "so if you're middle school or high school you should come on out." No reservations are required for archery participation and instruction is regimented to ensure safety. All equipment is supplied. To register for the other open house activities, or for more information contact Socorro Chamber of Commerce 835-0424 or Sevilleta 505-864-4021.



Sevilleta Deputy Manager Dennis Prichard teaches about animal tracks at a previous open house.

A few more weekdays to rest up, and then its **49ers Weekend** when Socorro welcomes back New Mexico Tech Alumni with a Saturday morning parade, Sunday morning hike up M

Mountain and plenty of celebrating in between. You can see the details at [www.nmt.edu](http://www.nmt.edu).

Lastly, the Socorro Amateur Radio Association hosts its annual **Hamfest** from 8-3 at the New Mexico Fire Fighters Academy, including examinations for amateur radio licenses for future Hams. For information call Al at 575 835-3370.

### October at a glance:

- Oct. 3 Chile Proppers Model Aircraft Fly  
Trinity Site & VLA tours  
Oktoberfest  
Blessing of the Animals
- Oct. 4: Chile Proppers Model Aircraft Fly
- Oct. 9-10: Socorro Fest  
Alamo Indian Days
- Oct. 14-17: Enchanted Skies Star Party
- Oct. 17: Artist Reception for Festival of the Cranes
- Oct. 17-18: Sevilleta NWR Open House
- Oct. 22 -24: 49ers Parade and Celebration
- Oct. 31: Hamfest

### Tourism Council Seeks Slogan

Indeed, there is ALWAYS SOMETHING going on in Socorro and we need a new slogan to tell the world about it! So... if you have an idea for a catchy phrase that conveys the spirit of our community, our county, the Socorro County Tourism Council wants to hear it! You can turn your entries in to the Socorro Heritage & Visitors Center on Fisher Street, El Defensor Chieftain, or email them to [tourism@socorronm.gov](mailto:tourism@socorronm.gov). The deadline is October 30, so in between all the things there are to do, get creative and send the Tourism Council your slogans.

#### City Council

<b>Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez</b>	<b>Gordy Hicks</b>
<b>Toby Jaramillo</b>	<b>Donald Monette</b>
<b>Michael Olguin, Jr.</b>	<b>Ernest Pargas, Jr.</b>
<b>Peter D. Romero</b>	<b>Chuck Zimmerly</b>
<b>Ravi Bhasker, Mayor</b>	
<b>Pat Salome, City Clerk</b>	